

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended) In a digital content delivery service system, a method of sending and validating/~~auditing~~ delivery of e-media, comprising the steps of:

~~obtaining/receiving~~ e-media of a sender/~~user~~ wherein the sender/~~user~~ has indicated a requested type of delivery of the e-media to a ~~client~~/receiving party, wherein the client is a software application;

specifying, by the sender/~~user~~, a level of feedback from the ~~client~~/receiving party that includes determining if the e-media and attached documents sent with it were printed and if the ~~client~~/receiving party opened and interacted with the e-media and attached documents;

accessing an account of the sender/~~user~~ to obtain sender/~~user~~ information;

sending the e-media to the ~~client~~/receiving party;

creating a history record that includes a chain of delivery events occurring after sending the e-media and interaction events occurring after receipt of the e-media;

receiving, by the sender/~~user~~, the history record and a validation/~~audit~~ of the requested type of delivery upon receipt/~~consumption~~ of the e-media in the form of a biometric signature to indicate receipt/~~consumption~~ of the e-media by the ~~client~~/receiving party to allow the sender/~~user~~ to make future e-media delivery decisions, wherein the validation/~~audit~~ of the requested type of delivery is unattended by the ~~client~~/receiving party; and

sending to the sender/~~user~~ the history record and regular status updates on availability times of the ~~client~~/receiving party to receive new e-media based on the events of the history record.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the validation/~~audit~~ of the requested type of delivery is attended by the ~~client~~/receiving party.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the validation/audit includes at least one of:

a biometric signature sent by the ~~client~~/receiving party; and

a user's ~~encrypted/unencrypted~~ Unique Identifier entered by the ~~client/consumer~~/receiving party to indicate that the e-media has been received/~~consumed~~.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein if there has been an authentication of recipient request from the sender/user, an ~~encrypted/unencrypted~~ Unique Identifier entered by the ~~client/consumer~~/receiving party and a biometric signature from the recipient is required to receive the e-media to indicate that the e-media has been received/~~consumed~~.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the e-media is received/~~consumed~~ by printing.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the e-media is received/~~consumed~~ other than by printing.

Claim 7 (currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for sending and validating/auditing delivery of e-media by a digital content delivery service system, the computer-executable instructions including the steps of:

~~obtaining~~/receiving e-media of a sender/user wherein the sender/user has indicated a requested type of delivery of the e-media to a ~~client~~/receiving party, wherein the client is a software application;

specifying, by the sender/user, a level of feedback from the ~~client~~/receiving party that includes determining if the e-media and attached documents sent with it were printed and if the ~~client~~/receiving party opened and interacted with the e-media and attached documents;

accessing an account of the sender/user to obtain sender/user information;

sending the e-media to the ~~client~~/receiving party;  
creating a history record that includes a chain of delivery events occurring after sending the e-media and interaction events occurring after receipt of the e-media;  
receiving, by the sender/~~user~~, the history record and a validation/~~audit~~ of the requested type of delivery upon receipt/~~consumption~~ of the e-media in the form of a biometric signature to indicate receipt/~~consumption~~ of the e-media by the ~~client~~/receiving party, wherein the validation/~~audit~~ of the requested type of delivery is unattended by the ~~client~~/receiving party; and  
sending to the sender/~~user~~ the history record and regular status updates on availability times of the ~~client~~/receiving party to receive new e-media based on the events of the history record.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the validation/~~audit~~ of the requested type of delivery is attended by the ~~client~~/receiving party.

Claim 9 (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 8 wherein the validation/~~audit~~ includes at least one of:

a biometric signature sent by the ~~client~~/receiving party; and  
a user's encrypted/~~unencrypted~~ Unique IDentifier entered by the ~~client~~/~~consumer~~/receiving party to indicate that the e-media has been received/~~consumed~~.

Claim 10 (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein if there has been an authentication of recipient request from the sender/~~user~~, an encrypted/~~unencrypted~~ Unique IDentifier entered by the ~~client~~/~~consumer~~/receiving party and a biometric signature from the recipient is required to receive the e-media to indicate that the e-media has been received/~~consumed~~.

Claim 11 (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the e-media is received/~~consumed~~ by printing.

Claim 12 (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the e-media is received/~~consumed~~ other than by printing.

Claim 13 (currently amended) A digital content delivery service system for sending and ~~validating~~/auditing delivery of e-media, comprising:

- an interface e-media transfer unit, arranged to communicate with at least one of:
  - a plurality of senders/~~users~~ and other digital content delivery service system/~~systems~~ and coupled to a sender/~~user~~ account storage unit and a validation/audit processing unit, programmed to ~~obtain~~/receive e-media of a sender/~~user~~ wherein the sender/~~user~~ has indicated a requested type of delivery of the e-media to a client/~~receiving~~ party and to store sender/~~user~~ information and requested type of delivery in the sender/~~user~~ account storage unit, wherein the sender/~~user~~ specifies a level of feedback from the client/~~receiving~~ party that includes determining if the e-media and attached documents sent with it were printed and if the client/~~receiving~~ party opened and interacted with the e-media and attached documents;
  - the validation/audit processing unit, coupled to the interface e-media transfer unit and to the sender/~~user~~ account storage unit, for obtaining sender/~~user~~ information and the requested type of delivery from the sender/~~user~~ account storage unit in the form of a biometric signature to indicate receipt/~~consumption~~ of the e-media, sending the e-media to the client/~~receiving~~ party/~~other~~ digital content delivery service system/~~systems~~, creating a history record that includes a chain of delivery events occurring after sending the e-media and interaction events occurring after receipt of the e-media, and obtaining the history record and validation/audit information for receipt/~~consumption~~ of the e-media, wherein the validation/audit of the requested type of delivery is unattended by the client/~~receiving~~ party;
  - the sender/~~user~~ account storage unit, coupled to the interface e-media transfer unit and the validation/audit processing unit, for storing sender/~~user~~ information and a requested type of delivery of e-media; and

the sender/~~user~~ receives the history record and regular status updates on availability times of the ~~client~~/receiving party to receive new e-media based on the events of the history record.

Claim 14 (currently amended) The digital content delivery service system of claim 13 wherein at least part of the ~~validation~~/audit information of the requested type of delivery is provided by the ~~client~~/receiving party.

Claim 15 (currently amended) The digital content delivery service system of claim 14 wherein the ~~validation~~/audit information includes at least one of:  
a biometric signature sent by the ~~client~~/receiving party; and  
a user's ~~encrypted~~/unencrypted Unique IDentifier entered by the ~~client~~/~~consumer~~/receiving party to indicate receipt/~~consumption~~ of the e-media.

Claim 16 (currently amended) The digital content delivery service system of claim 13 wherein the ~~validation~~/audit information of the requested type of delivery is automatically provided by a device/devices of the ~~client~~/receiving party.

Claim 17 (currently amended) The digital content delivery service system of claim 13 wherein the receipt/~~consumption~~ of the e-media is achieved by printing.

Claim 18 (currently amended) The digital content delivery service system of claim 13 wherein the receipt/~~consumption~~ of the e-media is achieved other than by printing.

Claim 19 (currently amended) In a digital content delivery system, a method for performing ~~validation~~/audit of delivery of e-media, comprising the steps of:  
packaging, by the sender/~~user~~, the e-media;  
specifying, by the sender/~~user~~, a level of feedback from the ~~client~~/receiving party that includes determining if the e-media and attached documents sent with it were printed and if the ~~client~~/receiving party opened and interacted with the e-media and attached documents;

requesting, by the sender/user, a delivery service to deliver the e-media;  
accessing, by the delivery service, the sender/user account to obtain pertinent information;

transmitting, by the delivery service, the e-media to the client/receiving party;  
delivering of the e-media to a personal computer/device of the client/receiving party;

creating a history record that includes a chain of delivery events occurring after sending the e-media and interaction events occurring after receipt of the e-media; and

validating, in the form of a biometric signature, by the client/receiving party, that the e-media has been received and sending the history record and regular status updates on availability times of the client/receiving party to receive new e-media based on the events of the history record to the sender/user and the client/receiving party, wherein the validation/audit of the requested type of delivery is unattended by the client/receiving party.

Claim 20 (currently amended) The method of claim 19 wherein the step of delivering the e-media to a personal computer/device of the client/receiving party includes at least one of:

informing the delivery service that the e-media was delivered; and  
determining a desired level of delivery validation.

Claim 21 (currently amended) The method of claim 19 wherein the step of delivering the e-media to a personal computer/device of the client/receiving party includes at least one of:

informing the delivery service that the e-media was delivered; and  
verifying utilization by the receiving party.

Claim 22 (currently amended) The method of claim 19 wherein the step of validating, by the client/receiving party, that the e-media has been received includes one of:

sending, by the client/receiving party, a biometric signature; and

entering a user's ~~encrypted/unencrypted~~ Unique Identifier by the ~~client/consumer/receiving~~ party to indicate that the e-media has been utilized.

Claim 23 (currently amended) In a digital content delivery system, a method for performing an unattended validation/~~audit~~ of delivery of printed e-media, comprising the steps of:

packaging, by the sender/~~user~~, the e-media;

specifying, by the sender/~~user~~, a level of feedback from the ~~client/receiving~~ party that includes determining if the e-media and attached documents sent with it were printed and if the ~~client/receiving~~ party opened and interacted with the e-media and attached documents;

receiving, by the delivery service, the e-media delivery request;

accessing, by the delivery service, the sender/~~user~~ account to obtain pertinent information;

transmitting, by the delivery service, the e-media to the ~~client/receiving~~ party, wherein the client is a software application;

automatically delivering of the e-media to a printer of the ~~client/receiving~~ party;

creating a history record that includes a chain of delivery events occurring after sending the e-media and interaction events occurring after receipt of the e-media; and

validating, in the form of a biometric signature, by the ~~client/receiving~~ party, that the e-media has been received/~~consumed~~ and sending the history record and regular status updates on availability times of the ~~client/receiving~~ party to receive new e-media based on the events of the history record to both the sender/~~user~~ and the ~~client/receiving~~ party, wherein the validation/~~audit~~ of the requested type of delivery is unattended by the ~~client/receiving~~ party.

Claim 24 (currently amended) The method of claim 23 wherein the step of transmitting, by the delivery service, the e-media to the ~~client/receiving~~ party includes at least one of:

informing the delivery service that the e-media was transmitted; and  
determining a desired level of delivery validation/~~audit~~.

Claim 25 (currently amended) The method of claim 23 wherein the step of delivering the e-media to the printer of the ~~client~~/receiving party includes at least one of:  
informing the delivery service that the e-media was delivered; and  
verifying receipt/~~consumption~~ by the ~~client~~/receiving party.

Claim 26 (currently amended) The method of claim 23 wherein the step of validating, by the printer of the ~~client~~/receiving party, that the e-media has been received/~~consumed~~ includes one of:

automatically sending, by the printer of the ~~client~~/receiving party, a biometric signature; and

automatically entering a user's ~~encrypted/unencrypted~~ Unique IDentifier by the printer of the ~~client/consumer~~/receiving party to indicate that the e-media has been received/~~consumed~~.

Claim 27 (currently amended) In a digital content delivery system, a method for performing an unattended validation/~~audit~~ of delivery of e-media, comprising the steps of:

packaging, by the sender/~~user~~, the e-media;

specifying, by the sender/~~user~~, a level of feedback from the ~~client~~/receiving party that includes determining if the e-media and attached documents sent with it were printed and if the ~~client~~/receiving party opened and interacted with the e-media and attached documents;

requesting, by the sender/~~user~~, the delivery service to deliver the e-media;

accessing, by the delivery service, the sender/~~user~~ account to obtain pertinent information;

transmitting, by the delivery service, the e-media to a ~~client~~/receiving party;

delivering of the e-media to a consumption device of the ~~client~~/receiving party;

creating a history record that includes a chain of delivery events occurring after sending the e-media and interaction events occurring after receipt of the e-media;

validating, in the form of a biometric signature, by the consumption device of the client/receiving party, correct delivery of the e-media and sending the history record and regular status updates on availability times of the client/receiving party to receive new e-media based on the events of the history record to both the sender/user and the client/receiving party, wherein the validation/audit of the requested type of delivery is unattended by the client/receiving party; and

sending to the sender/user the history record and regular status updates on availability times of the client/receiving party to receive new e-media based on the events of the history record.

Claim 28 (currently amended) The method of claim 27 wherein the pertinent information includes at least one of:

- a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique Identifier;
- identification of the e-media; and
- a desired level of delivery validation/audit feedback.

Claim 29 (currently amended) The method of claim 27 wherein the step of validating, by the consumption device of the client/receiving party, the correct delivery of the e-media includes validating a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique Identifier.

Claim 30 (currently amended) In a digital content delivery system, a method for performing an unattended validation/audit of delivery of e-media, comprising the steps of:

- packaging, by the sender, the e-media;
- specifying, by the sender/user, a level of feedback from the client/receiving party that includes determining if the e-media and attached documents sent with it were printed and if the client/receiving party opened and interacted with the e-media and attached documents;
- requesting, by the sender/user, the delivery service to deliver the e-media;
- accessing, by the delivery service, the sender/user account to obtain pertinent information;

transmitting, by the delivery service, the e-media to the ~~client~~/receiving party;  
delivering of the e-media to a consumption device of the ~~client~~/receiving party;  
creating a history record that includes a chain of delivery events occurring after  
sending the e-media and interaction events occurring after receipt of the e-media;  
validating, in the form of a biometric signature, by the consumption device of the  
~~client~~/receiving party, correct delivery of the e-media, wherein the validation/~~audit~~ of the  
requested type of delivery is unattended by the ~~client~~/receiving party; and  
receiving the history record, regular status updates on availability times of the  
~~client~~/receiving party to receive new e-media based on the events of the history record  
and a validation/~~audit~~ of the requested type of delivery upon receipt/~~consumption~~ of the  
e-media by the ~~client~~/receiving party to allow the ~~client~~/receiving party to make future e-  
media delivery decisions.

Claim 31 (currently amended) The method of claim 30 wherein the pertinent  
information includes at least one of:

- a user's ~~encrypted/unencrypted~~ Unique Identifier;
- identification of the e-media; and
- a desired level of delivery validation/~~audit~~ feedback.

Claim 32 (currently amended) The method of claim 30 wherein the step of  
validating, by the consumption device of the ~~client~~/receiving party, the correct delivery of  
the e-media includes validating a user's ~~encrypted/unencrypted~~ Unique Identifier.